



**McMaster University Retirees Association**

1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4L8, Canada

Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23171

Home: (905) 528-6506

e-mail: wayne.rouse3@yahoo.ca

<http://www.macra.ca>

Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association  
Wednesday September 9, 2009, 1:30PM at the Student Centre Rm 224.

**Present:** Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Jeff Chuchman, Helen Dietsche, Al Fraser, Mike Hedden, Joe Laposa, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Joan Parker (chair), Wayne Rouse, Marianne Van der Wel.

**Regrets:** Beth Csordas, Geoff Evans, Margaret Jenkins, Michele Leroux, Kathy Ryan, Anne Sinclair, Marianne Walters.

**1. Welcome & Regrets:**

Joan Parker called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM

**2. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

**(a) Council meeting minutes for June 10, 2009.**

A number of minor grammatical and syntax corrections were made to the provisional minutes as distributed. These are incorporated into the official web site minutes for that meeting.

**Moved** by Kathy Overholt and **seconded** by Mike Hedden that the minutes be adopted as presented. **Motion carried.**

**3. Business Arising**

**(a) Report on academic awards and endowment fund raising campaign (Helen Barton)**

There has been a great response since the solicitation letter this past spring, so that the Scholarship Fund is almost fully subscribed, a year earlier than was forecast. A thank-you note will go out to all subscribers. Additionally, the next fund-raising letter will be prepared. Cliff Andrews queried if the initial \$32,000 will be sufficient to sustain the ongoing commitments. *Because* Withdrawals do not kick in until after the final year of the fund (until then the studentships will be paid from MURA's operating budget) it was generally felt that this should not be a problem. Mike Hedden wondered if MURA should be thinking about a new scholarship program after the current one has been fully subscribed. Helen Barton, Beth Csordas and Joan Parker will be in charge of thank-you notes and requests for further support. Council can think on a new scholarship program.

**(b) MURA Note Cards Report (Kathy Overholt)**

Recent purchasers include the University's Provosts Office, Brian Prince's Book Store and an enthusiastic friend from Belgium.

**(c) Possible retirement buyout for hourly workers who are past the rule of 80**  
(Helen Barton)

Jeff Chuchman reported that the early buyout offers for hourly workers appear to be nearing finalization and at least one management employee in Facilities Services is known to have accepted an offer.

**(d) Telecommunications: Online Directory** (Helen Baron)

Nothing has yet been finalized but a report will probably be ready for the next council meeting.

**(e) 2010 – 25<sup>th</sup> MURA Anniversary** (Joan Parker)

An ideas committee comprising Mike Hedden and Kathy Ryan has put forth a number of possibilities. These include 25 things you should know about MURA (cribbed from CARP), an invitation to past University Presidents to a membership dinner party and a competition for an award-winning MURA Logo design. Joe Laposa was first off the mark on the last-mentioned suggesting the McMaster Crest sitting atop a wheel chair. Mike Hedden will shortly email to Council a list of ideas.

**(f) Clinical Faculty Supplementary Surplus** (Helen Barton/Les Rob)

A report is not finalized but is imminent and will include a recommendation for Council action.

**(g) Parking** (Helen Barton)

No complaints at this time. A charging mechanism for retiree parking before noon hour has not been enunciated by the McMaster Parking Authority and things may just continue in their present pattern for the time being.

**(h) Group of Seven Presentation** (Joan Parker)

This event takes place on November 5. The Student Centre banquet room has been booked for the afternoon period following the Retired Faculty and Librarians Luncheon which is jointly cosponsored by the Office of the President and MUFA. An appropriate invitation to the Group of Seven Presentation must be ready by October 5 to accompany the luncheon invitation being mailed from the President's Office. The event must also be advertised in MURAnews. Joan Parker, Helen Barton and Wayne Rouse are involved with the planning of this event.

**(i) Brochure for New Retirees**

The brochure of CURAC "perks" jointly prepared by Marianne Van der Wal and Helen Barton has been completed and will be distributed to all new retirees in their exit packages as soon as possible.

#### **4. Correspondence**

**a) E-Mails received from two retirees concerning the Pension/Benefit Situation**

Part of the current contract negotiations between the University and CAW555 (the Union representing McMaster's non-management salaried workers) is proposed changes to Pensions and Benefits. In very general terms, new hires would have a group RRSP instead of belonging to the Defined Benefit Pension Plan, and would

contribute to a Health Trust Plan for their retirement instead of having full University-paid retirement health benefits. The University's Final Offer has been voted down by the Union. The Union wishes to continue negotiating, and a strike has not been called at the time of writing. The MURA executive feels that these fundamental changes would be very divisive to the university community at large and agreed that Council should:

- i) Provide a statement in MURANews (hopefully written by Les Robb) about the possible effect of the proposed changes to current retirees.
- ii) Convey to the University President, the CAW Union representatives, MURA's concerns about maintaining collegiality and comprehensiveness for the welfare of our retired members and the university.

**b) Request from Osteoporosis Canada asking if their organization could be included in the Volunteer Program**

The executive recommended that opportunities for volunteers for Osteoporosis Canada should be noted in MURANews and MURAMEMBS-L. Accepted by Council.

**c) Request for advertising Christmas Program of Geritol Follies**

Since it includes a number of MURA members the executive recommended that Geritol Christmas Follies should be detailed in MURANews. Accepted by Council.

**d) Spiro Panagiotou has offered to lead a trip of mainland Greece** for MURA members in the spring of 2010. The executive recommended that this should be noted in MURANews and on MURAMEMBS-L when more specific details are available. This led to a more general discussion in Council about what travel events we should and should not be favouring. It was generally felt that if it involves MURA members and not a commercial venture, both of which apply in the foregoing case, then it is a legitimate activity to highlight for our members. Accepted by Council.

**e) Request from Sociology for short-term part-time help (Marianne Van der Wel).**

This request was filled almost immediately after posting on the WEB site and MURAMEMBS-L. It raises questions about whether or not MURA should be facilitating paid employment positions via MURAMEMBS-L. Marianne recommended against falling into the position of brokering these arrangements. The Union's position on short-term part-time labour was not known. This is an action item for Jeff Chuchman to check on and report back to Council.

**5. President's Report (Joan Parker)**

**a) Any objections to the circulated list of portfolios should be given to the President**

There was general concurrence with the circulated list of portfolios. An update is that Lorraine Allen has accepted a co-chair appointment for liaison with MUFA. The Executive and Council need to determine what aspects are most important in the liaison initiative. Ideas should be submitted to Joan Parker (Action Item).

**b) Status of the McMASTER-CAW 555 Pension/Benefit dispute (Helen Barton)**

See report above (Correspondence (a))

**c) Need for a statement from our Pension's Committee to address the concerns of our retirees.**

See report above (Correspondence (a))

**d) Meeting with Human Resources re. Retirees' List**

Jeff Chuchman has agreed to send an updated list to Pam Penny each month starting as soon as possible. This list is also sent to the Helen Barton and Marianne Van der Vel for posting in MURAnews. Marianne/Helen will put the names in MURAnews and send a copy to Michele Leroux to check before the MURAnews is published.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** (Beth Csordas)

The report was circulated before the meeting and will be posted on the Virtual Office web site. A correction to the report should list a budget of \$225/3 yr period for update of the web site. As circulated this item was \$nil. Action Item

**7. Information Reports from Committees**

**(a) AGM** (Pam Penny)

No action at this time.

**(b) Cards** (Helen Dietsche)

Helen Dietsche sent bereavement cards to the families of William Luscombe (Physical Plant & Construction), Tuong Nguyen (Geography and Earth Sciences), Charles G Roland (Family Medicine), George B Wallace (Art and Art History), Paul White (Utility Plant), William Schlatter (Business).

**(c) Constitution and By-Laws** (Helen Barton)

Nothing at this time

**(d) Membership** (Pam Penny)

The MURA membership in September is 1922, a net increase of 27 retirees since June 2009. See Virtual Office web site for details.

**(e) MURAnews** (Joan Parker)

The hard deadline for information for the fall issue of MURA news is September 23, 2009, so that we can mail the MURAnews out on October 5. People who are away before then need to submit their articles earlier (well before Sep 23 so that the articles can be put together and checked with the author)!

**(f) Nominating** (Helen Barton)

Nothing at this time

**(g) Pension and Benefits** (Geoff Evans)

Nothing at this time

**(h) Special Events** (Margaret Jenkins)

The McMaster Planetarium event is sold out.

Information on the Chrysanthemum Show will be in the next MURAnews.

**(i) Trips** (Ann Sinclair)

Nothing new at this time.

**(j) Christmas Lunch** (Pam Penny)

Information for the MURAnews will be needed by September 23.

**(k) Web Site** (Marianne Van der Wel)

Marianne gave an update on efforts to facilitate posting events etc. to the Web Site so it isn't all funneled through the Web Master. Getting appropriate software is not proving an easy task.

**8. Information Reports from Liaisons**

**(a) University Board of Governors** (Lorraine Allan)

No recent meetings to report on.

**(b) College and University Retirees Assoc. of Canada (CURAC)** (Helen Barton)

University of Toronto now has a retirees centre called "Seniors College". Their official web site (Under the jurisdiction of the Provost) is:

[http://www.faculty.utoronto.ca/arc/Senior\\_College.htm](http://www.faculty.utoronto.ca/arc/Senior_College.htm) Their personal web site is:  
<http://sites.google.com/site/seniorcollegedcommunications>

Marianne will be assisting the CURAC newsletter editor (Joan Cunnington) with proofreading for their Fall 2009 issue.

**(c) MUFA** (Geoff Evans)

Nothing new at this time.

**(d) CAW (MUSA)** (Kathy Overholt)

Nothing new at this time except as noted above (Section 4(a)).

**(e) Hourly Staff Liaison** (Al Fraser)

Nothing new at this time.

**9. Other Business**

None

**10. Next meeting Wednesday October 14, 2009 at 1:30 PM in Student Centre, Rm 224**

**11. Adjournment**

Following the motion by Mike Hedden the meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.